GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:889
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Unfertile Land
Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that agricultural land is being converted into infertile/uncultivated land in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(b) whether the Government is considering to bring any Policy Bill to convert infertile land into cultivation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (d): As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments. Therefore, the State Governments are to take suitable steps to check diversion of agricultural land into infertile/uncultivated land. However, Government of India is implementing various watershed programmes for development of degraded land/infertile land in the country and parts of such developed land are put to cultivation for various crops including food crops.

The Government had been implementing an area development programme i.e. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009 for development of rainfed/degraded areas into agricultural land in the country. The objectives of the IMWP programme are conservation of water, improving agriculture productivity and livelihood creation. The major activities taken up under the programme, inter alia, includes ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, etc.

From the year 2015-16, the IWMP programme has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY).
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